

Jewel & Esk College opens doors on new campuses

Students of Jewel & Esk College got their first sight of some of Scotland's most exciting and high tech teaching facilities on 17th November as the doors opened on the college's ambitious multi million pound e:volve campus redevelopment project.

Jewel & Esk College is no stranger to change – things have been evolving for years. The iconic ship building at Milton Rd was opened in 1978 by Prince Charles as the newest wing of Leith Nautical College. Leith Nautical was one of only three nautical colleges in Scotland and was recognised by many as one of the leading training centres of its type in North West Europe.

In 1984, the government controversially decided that nautical studies should be centred at Glasgow and Leith Nautical College ceased to offer marine related courses. The college's non-nautical course offering was retained at the ship building and merged with Esk Valley College to be re-launched as Jewel & Esk Valley College. The courses on offer took in a whole range of trades and technology based subjects and included one of the first modern musicianship courses in the country.

Initiated in September 2005, the e:volve project has heralded a rebirth for the college. Surely the most dramatic of transformations in the college's history, e:volve has seen the creation of a new campus at Hardengreen in Midlothian and the complete redevelopment of the Edinburgh campus including the building of the Club.

Project Director Steve Hudson, explains that the e:volve project was developed with the aim of giving students the best facilities in which to learn and at the same time giving local communities a fantastic new leisure and learning centre.

He said: "The project has always remained focused on functionality and creating an



environment which will place our students in a much stronger position for entering the workplace. We used our budget in a highly effective way and opted not to spend on expensive fixtures and fittings but rather deliver some of Scotland's best teaching facilities.

"The redevelopment was a truly collaborative process. Academic staff worked with the architects to make sure that the end result was an industry standard training facility designed to give students the best learning experience possible. The long term benefits of this are clear."

the Club is a landmark in Scottish education with its capacity to offer students a 'real-life' working environment in which to learn and train for careers in hospitality, health & fitness, beauty and complementary therapies, catering and hairdressing.

The distinctively shaped building features spa facilities that could be found in a 4-star resort, kitchens that would not look out of place in a Gordon Ramsay restaurant and one of Edinburgh's best dining locations with views over Arthur's Seat.

As well as being a first class training centre, the Club will be open to members of the

public for spa and gym membership. The restaurant, eh15, will offer morning coffees, lunch, afternoon teas and evening meals. Students will prepare and serve meals whilst guests can enjoy the relaxed ambience and stunning, panoramic views. Serving fresh, local produce accompanied by an extensive, carefully selected wine list, eh15 will offer students a first class learning experience and diners a top rate restaurant.

The Edinburgh Campus has also seen a total refit of the iconic ship building, providing a home for CRE:8, the college's music, multimedia and TV centre. TV students will be able to film in the new studios, complete with infinity coving before moving into one of the six Avid editing suites to add the finishing touches. Continuing to push the Modern Musicianship envelope, Jewel & Esk has achieved a UK first by becoming the only further education college to feature professional mixing desks from Solid State Logic. Musician Peter Gabriel's company is the world's leading manufacturer of analogue and digital audio consoles and access to the SSL technology is going to put Jewel & Esk students in a unique position.

At Hardengreen, the new Midlothian Campus is set to become one of the most advanced technology teaching centres in Scotland. It features an Oil Production Platform Simulator, specialist engineering and construction equipment and purpose built plumbing and electrical workshops.

Jewel & Esk has a strong tradition in technology based studies; six students won national competitions across a range of



One Supplier for all your Vehicles